



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum No. WYD-03-2013-007

Expires: 7/10/2014

To: Atlantic Rim Review Team and Working Groups  
From: Dennis J. Carpenter, Field Manager   
Subject: Shrub-Dependent Songbird Performance Thresholds

The Atlantic Rim Shrub-Dependent Songbird (SDS) Working Group has identified two thresholds for SDSs in the Atlantic Rim Project Area. These thresholds are based on the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) method that, if met or exceeded, would trigger a mitigation and/or adaptive management process that would initiate consideration of measures that would contribute to the achievement of the Performance Goal identified for SDSs.

The two thresholds are detailed below:

1. A 10-percent decline in occupancy at the 1 km<sup>2</sup> scale demonstrated with 90-percent confidence compared to the baseline estimates produced in 2010 and 2011, for any priority species (Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Sage Sparrow, and Green Tailed Towhee) within the high-development zone stratum. In addition, declines in occupancy must exceed any detected negative decline within the low-development zone stratum or the surveyed control stratum of Bird Conservation Region 10 under the IMBCR program by at least 2-percent.
2. A 25-percent decline in occupancy at the 1 km<sup>2</sup> scale demonstrated with 90-percent confidence compared to the baseline estimates produced in 2010 and 2011, for any non-priority songbird species. The declines in occupancy must exceed any detected negative decline observed in the low-development zone stratum or the surveyed control stratum of the Bird Conservation Region 10 under the IMBCR program by at least 2-percent.

The IMBCR method of monitoring of SDSs will continue. Should the above thresholds be met, a mitigation and/or adaptive management process will be initiated. For additional

information pertaining to the development of these thresholds, please see the Shrub-Dependent Songbirds Impact Thresholds paper at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Rawlins Field Office, or online at:

[http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field\\_offices/Rawlins/AtlanticRim.html](http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/field_offices/Rawlins/AtlanticRim.html).

The development of these thresholds followed the protocol outlined in Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. WYD-030-2012-003, Recommendations For and Changes to Monitoring Procedures for the Atlantic Rim Natural Gas Development Project of March 28, 2012. The Review Team and the BLM-Authorized Officer (Dennis J. Carpenter) recommend the adoption of these thresholds.

If there are comments, concerns, or issues that arise from this IM, please contact Jennifer Fleuret, Atlantic Rim Project Manager, at (307) 328-4314 or e-mail [jfleuret@blm.gov](mailto:jfleuret@blm.gov).